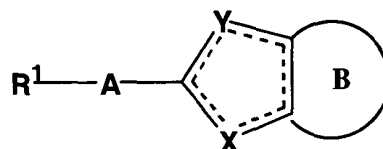


CLAIMS

1. A compound of formula (I):



(I)

wherein A is $\text{-NR}^1(\text{C}=\text{O})$, $\text{-(C}=\text{O)NR}^1$, $(\text{C}_2\text{-C}_6)\text{alkynyl-}$, or a bond;

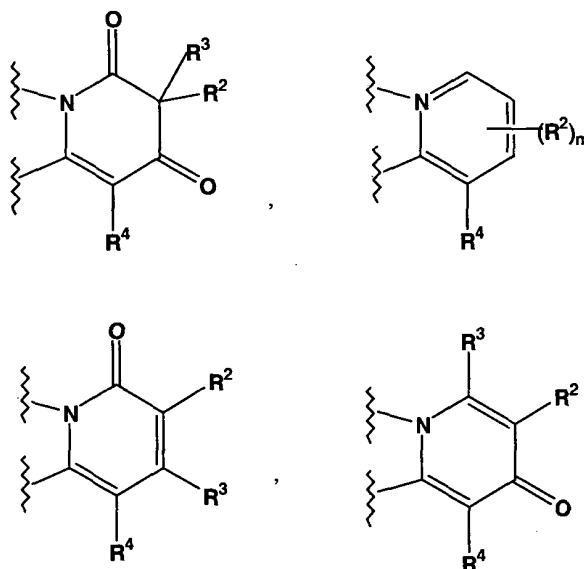
X is selected from -N= , -NR^9 , -O- , -S- , -CR^{10} , $>\text{C(R}^{11})_2$,

Y is selected from -N= , -NR^9 , -O- , -S- , -CR^{10} , $>\text{C(R}^{11})_2$;

with the proviso that when Y is O or S, X is not O or S;

dashed lines represent optional double bonds;

ring B is selected from the group consisting of:

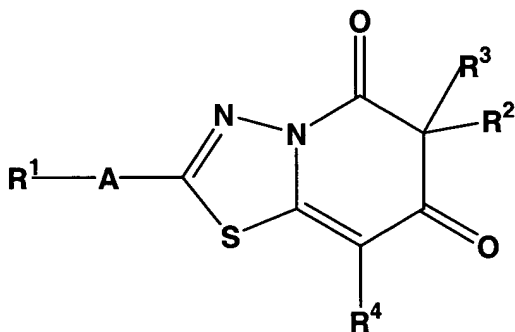


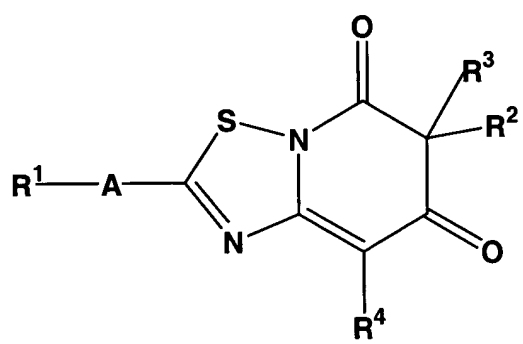
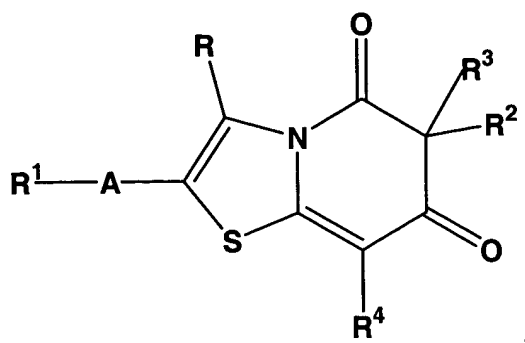
wherein each R, R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , R^5 , R^6 , R^9 , R^{10} , and R^{11} are the same or different, where

- 15 ever they appear, and each is independently selected from the group consisting of $(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6)\text{alkyl-}$, $(\text{C}_2\text{-C}_6)\text{alkenyl-}$, $(\text{C}_2\text{-C}_6)\text{alkynyl-}$, $(\text{C}_3\text{-C}_{10})\text{cycloalkyl-}$, $(\text{C}_6\text{-C}_{10})\text{aryl-}$, $(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{10})\text{heterocyclyl-}$, $(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{10})\text{heteroaryl-}$, $(\text{C}_3\text{-C}_{10})\text{cycloalkyl-(C}_1\text{-C}_6\text{)alkyl-}$, $(\text{C}_6\text{-C}_{10})\text{aryl-(C}_1\text{-C}_6\text{)alkyl-}$, $(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{10})\text{heterocyclyl-(C}_1\text{-C}_6\text{)alkyl-}$, $(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{10})\text{heteroaryl-(C}_1\text{-C}_6\text{)alkyl-}$, $(\text{C}_3\text{-C}_{10})\text{cycloalkyl-(C}_2\text{-C}_6\text{)alkenyl-}$, $(\text{C}_6\text{-C}_{10})\text{aryl-(C}_2\text{-C}_6\text{)alkenyl-}$, $(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{10})\text{heterocyclyl-(C}_2\text{-C}_6\text{)alkenyl-}$, $(\text{C}_6\text{-C}_{10})\text{aryl-(C}_2\text{-C}_6\text{)alkenyl-}$, $(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{10})\text{heteroaryl-(C}_2\text{-C}_6\text{)alkenyl-}$, $(\text{C}_3\text{-C}_{10})\text{cycloalkyl-(C}_2\text{-C}_6\text{)alkynyl-}$, $(\text{C}_6\text{-C}_{10})\text{aryl-(C}_2\text{-C}_6\text{)alkynyl-}$, $(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{10})\text{heterocyclyl-(C}_2\text{-C}_6\text{)alkynyl-}$, $(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{10})\text{heteroaryl-(C}_2\text{-C}_6\text{)alkynyl-}$; wherein each of the aforesaid group members, $(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6)\text{alkyl-}$,
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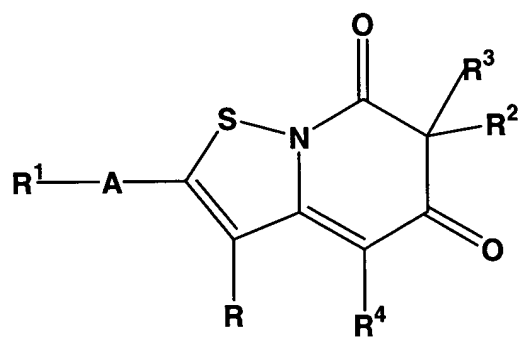
- (C₂-C₆)alkenyl-, (C₂-C₆)alkynyl-, (C₃-C₁₀)cycloalkyl-, (C₆-C₁₀)aryl-, (C₁-C₁₀)heterocyclyl-, (C₁-C₁₀)heteroaryl-, (C₃-C₁₀)cycloalkyl-(C₁-C₆)alkyl-, (C₆-C₁₀)aryl-(C₁-C₆)alkyl-, (C₁-C₁₀)heterocyclyl-(C₁-C₆)alkyl-, (C₁-C₁₀)heteroaryl-(C₁-C₆)alkyl-, (C₃-C₁₀)cycloalkyl-(C₂-C₆)alkenyl-, (C₆-C₁₀)aryl-(C₂-C₆)alkenyl-, (C₁-C₁₀)heterocyclyl-(C₂-C₆)alkenyl-, (C₆-C₁₀)aryl-(C₂-C₆)alkenyl-, (C₁-C₁₀)heteroaryl-(C₂-C₆)alkenyl-, (C₃-C₁₀)cycloalkyl-(C₂-C₆)alkynyl-, (C₆-C₁₀)aryl-(C₂-C₆)alkynyl-, (C₁-C₁₀)heterocyclyl-(C₂-C₆)alkynyl-, and (C₁-C₁₀)heteroaryl-(C₂-C₆)alkynyl-, may be optionally independently substituted with one to three suitable substituents selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, -CN, (C₁-C₄)alkyl-, (C₁-C₄)alkoxy-, CF₃-, CF₃O-, (C₆-C₁₀)aryl-, (C₁-C₁₀)heteroaryl-, (C₆-C₁₀)aryl-(C₁-C₄)alkyl-, (C₁-C₁₀)heteroaryl-(C₁-C₄)alkyl-, HO(C=O)-, (C₁-C₄)alkyl-(O)(C=O)-, (C₁-C₄)alkyl-(O)(C=O)(C₁-C₄)alkyl-, (C₁-C₄)alkyl-(C=O)-, (C₁-C₄)alkyl-(C=O)(C₁-C₄)alkyl-, -(S=O)R, -(SO₂)R, and NR⁷R⁸ wherein R⁷ and R⁸ are independently selected from hydrogen, (C₁-C₆)alkyl;
- wherein each R, R³, R⁵, R⁶, R⁹, R¹⁰, and R¹¹ may further independently be hydrogen;
- R⁴ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and (C₁-C₆)alkyl-, and R⁴ may be optionally substituted with one to three suitable substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, hydroxy, -CN, CF₃-, and CF₃O-;
- m is an integer from 0-3; or
- a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

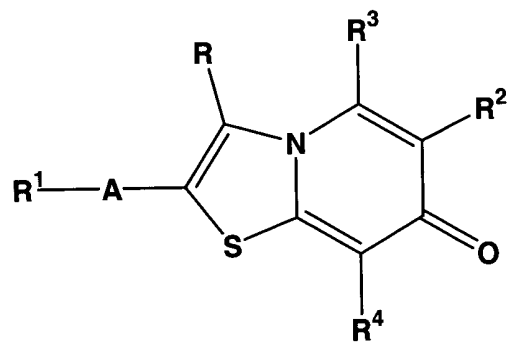
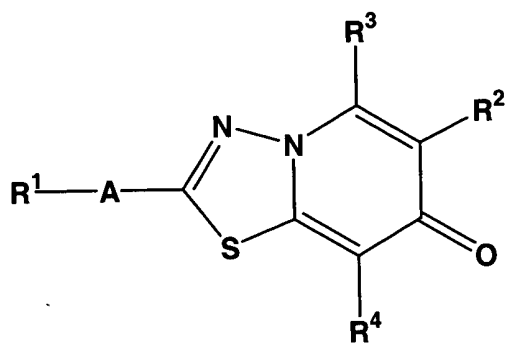
2. The compound according to claim 1 selected from the group consisting of:



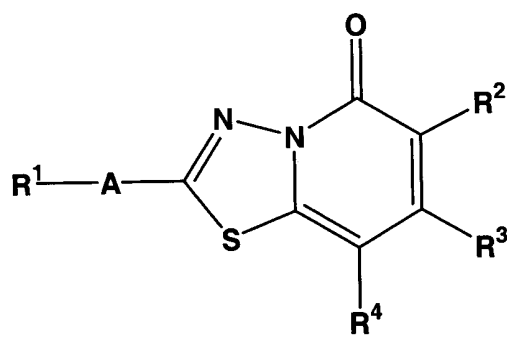


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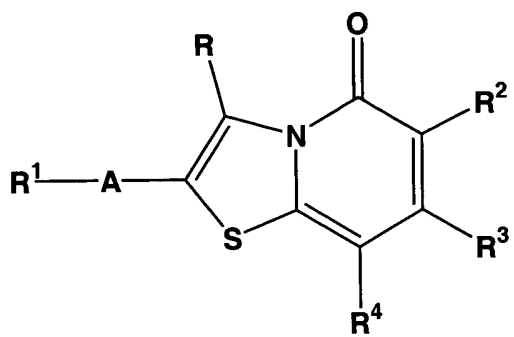


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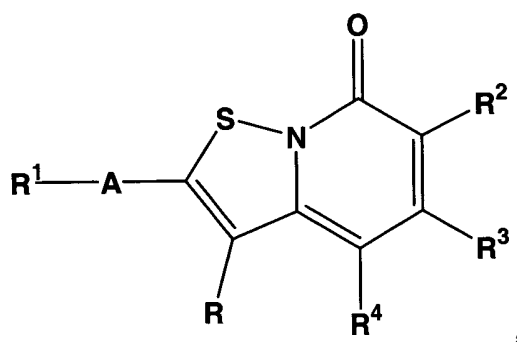


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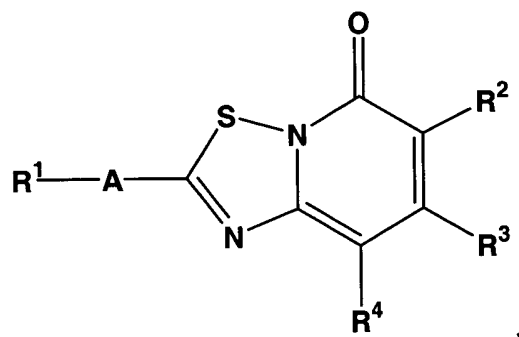
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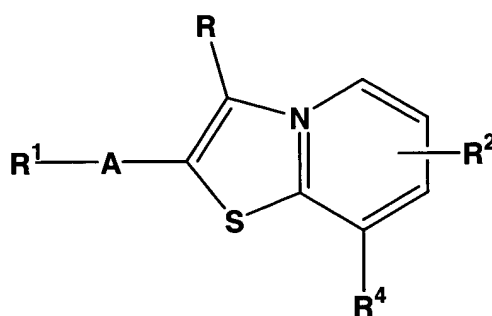
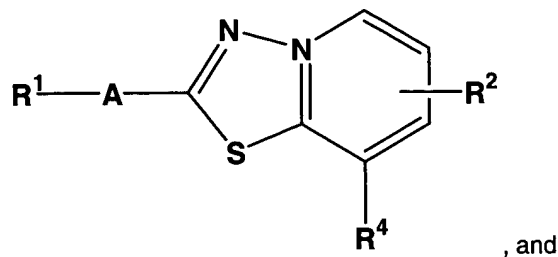


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3. The compound according to Claim 1, wherein R¹ is selected from (C₃-C₁₀)cycloalkyl-, (C₁-C₆)alkyl-, (C₆-C₁₀)aryl-(C₁-C₆)alkyl-, (C₁-C₁₀)heterocyclyl-(C₁-C₆)alkyl-, (C₁-C₁₀)heteroaryl-(C₁-C₆)alkyl-, (C₃-C₁₀)cycloalkyl-(C₂-C₆)alkenyl-, (C₆-C₁₀)aryl-(C₂-C₆)alkenyl-, (C₁-C₁₀)heterocyclyl-(C₂-C₆)alkenyl-, (C₁-C₁₀)heteroaryl-(C₂-C₆)alkenyl-, (C₃-C₁₀)cycloalkyl-(C₂-C₆)alkynyl-, (C₆-C₁₀)aryl-(C₂-C₆)alkynyl-, (C₁-C₁₀)heterocyclyl-(C₂-C₆)alkynyl-, and (C₁-C₁₀)heteroaryl-(C₂-C₆)alkynyl-.

4. The compound according to Claim 1, wherein R² is selected from (C₃-C₁₀)cycloalkyl-, (C₁-C₆)alkyl-, (C₆-C₁₀)aryl-(C₁-C₆)alkyl-, (C₁-C₁₀)heterocyclyl-(C₁-C₆)alkyl-, (C₁-C₁₀)heteroaryl-(C₁-C₆)alkyl-, (C₃-C₁₀)cycloalkyl-(C₂-C₆)alkenyl-, (C₆-C₁₀)aryl-(C₂-C₆)alkenyl-, (C₁-C₁₀)heterocyclyl-(C₂-C₆)alkenyl-, (C₆-C₁₀)aryl-(C₂-C₆)alkenyl-, (C₁-C₁₀)heteroaryl-(C₂-C₆)alkenyl-, (C₃-C₁₀)cycloalkyl-(C₂-C₆)alkynyl-, (C₆-C₁₀)aryl-(C₂-C₆)alkynyl-, (C₁-C₁₀)heterocyclyl-(C₂-C₆)alkynyl-, and (C₁-C₁₀)heteroaryl-(C₂-C₆)alkynyl-.

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5. The compound according to any one of Claims 1 to 4, wherein R¹ and R² are independently selected from (C₆-C₁₀)aryl-(C₁-C₆)alkyl- and (C₁-C₁₀)heteroaryl-(C₁-C₆)alkyl-.

6. The compound according to Claim 1, wherein R³, R⁴, R⁵, and R⁶ are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and (C₁-C₆)alkyl-.

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7. The compound according to Claim 1 selected from the group consisting of:
- 6-Benzyl-8-methyl-5,7-dioxo-1,5,6,7-tetrahydro-[1,2,4]triazolo[1,5-a]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid benzylamide
- 6-(3,4-Difluoro-benzyl)-8-methyl-5,7-dioxo-1,5,6,7-tetrahydro-[1,2,4]triazolo[1,5-a]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid benzylamide
- 5 a)pyridine-2-carboxylic acid benzylamide
- 6-(3,4-Difluoro-benzyl)-8-methyl-5,7-dioxo-1,5,6,7-tetrahydro-[1,2,4]triazolo[1,5-a]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid (pyridin-4-ylmethyl)-amide
- 6-(4-Fluoro-benzyl)-8-methyl-5,7-dioxo-1,5,6,7-tetrahydro-[1,2,4]triazolo[1,5-a]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid (2-methoxy-pyridin-4-ylmethyl)-amide
- 10 6-(3,4-Difluoro-benzyl)-8-methyl-5,7-dioxo-6,7-dihydro-5H-[1,3,4]thiadiazolo[3,2-a]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid (2-methoxy-pyridin-4-ylmethyl)-amide
- 6-(3,4-Difluoro-benzyl)-8-methyl-5,7-dioxo-6,7-dihydro-5H-[1,3,4]thiadiazolo[3,2-a]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid (pyridin-4-ylmethyl)-amide
- 6-(3,4-Difluoro-benzyl)-8-methyl-5,7-dioxo-6,7-dihydro-5H-[1,3,4]thiadiazolo[3,2-a]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid benzylamide
- 15 a)pyridine-2-carboxylic acid benzylamide
- 6-(3,4-Difluoro-benzyl)-8-methyl-5,7-dioxo-6,7-dihydro-5H-[1,3,4]oxadiazolo[3,2-a]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid benzylamide
- 6-(3,4-Difluoro-benzyl)-8-methyl-5,7-dioxo-6,7-dihydro-5H-[1,3,4]oxadiazolo[3,2-a]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid (pyridin-4-ylmethyl)-amide
- 20 6-(3,4-Difluoro-benzyl)-8-methyl-5,7-dioxo-6,7-dihydro-5H-[1,3,4]oxadiazolo[3,2-a]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid (2-methoxy-pyridin-4-ylmethyl)-amide
- 6-(3,4-Difluoro-benzyl)-8-methyl-5,7-dioxo-6,7-dihydro-5H-oxazolo[3,2-a]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid (2-methoxy-pyridin-4-ylmethyl)-amide
- 6-(3,4-Difluoro-benzyl)-8-methyl-5,7-dioxo-6,7-dihydro-5H-oxazolo[3,2-a]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid (pyridin-4-ylmethyl)-amide
- 25 6-(3,4-Difluoro-benzyl)-8-methyl-5,7-dioxo-6,7-dihydro-5H-oxazolo[3,2-a]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid benzylamide
- 6-(3,4-Difluoro-benzyl)-8-methyl-5,7-dioxo-6,7-dihydro-5H-thiazolo[3,2-a]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid benzylamide
- 30 6-(3,4-Difluoro-benzyl)-8-methyl-5,7-dioxo-6,7-dihydro-5H-thiazolo[3,2-a]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid (pyridin-4-ylmethyl)-amide
- 6-(3,4-Difluoro-benzyl)-8-methyl-5,7-dioxo-6,7-dihydro-5H-thiazolo[3,2-a]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid (2-methoxy-pyridin-4-ylmethyl)-amide
- 6-(3,4-Difluoro-benzyl)-8-methyl-5,7-dioxo-1,5,6,7-tetrahydro-indolizine-2-carboxylic acid (2-methoxy-pyridin-4-ylmethyl)-amide
- 35 6-(3,4-Difluoro-benzyl)-8-methyl-5,7-dioxo-1,5,6,7-tetrahydro-indolizine-2-carboxylic acid (pyridin-4-ylmethyl)-amide

6-(3,4-Difluoro-benzyl)-8-methyl-7-oxo-1,7-dihydro-[1,2,4]triazolo[1,5-a]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid (pyridin-4-ylmethyl)-amide

6-(3,4-Difluoro-benzyl)-8-methyl-7-oxo-1,7-dihydro-[1,2,4]triazolo[1,5-a]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid benzylamide, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

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8. A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of a condition selected from the group consisting of connective tissue disorders, inflammatory disorders, immunology/allergy disorders, infectious diseases, respiratory diseases, cardiovascular diseases, eye diseases, metabolic diseases, central nervous system (CNS) disorders, liver/kidney diseases, reproductive health disorders, gastric disorders, skin disorders and cancers in a mammal, including a human, comprising an amount of a compound of Claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, effective in such treatment and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

11. The pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 8, comprising a compound according to Claim 7, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, admixed with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, excipient, or diluent.

12. A method for treating arthritis, comprising administering to a patient suffering from an arthritis disease a nontoxic antiarthritic effective amount of a compound of Claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

13. The method according to Claim 12, wherein the compound administered is a compound according to Claim 7, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.